



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Impervious Surface Areas – SF Board to initiate comprehensive data

collection – Increases in impervious surface areas (roads, rooftops, etc.) can lead to an increase in the pollutant loading carried by stormwater runoff. Related increases in flow volume, peak rates, and duration can also harm waterways and may trigger flow controls based on the hydromodification requirements in municipal stormwater permit.

A recent letter sent out by the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board initiates an effort by the Board to collect data on the changes in the amount of impervious surface from all new and redevelopment projects within the jurisdiction of the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program. The goal is to collect information irrespective of whether the impervious surface area change is subject to the Program's internal permit requirements. The Board wants to quantify the "total impervious surface created or replaced that is exempted from current stormwater treatment or flow controls, and to provide a potential measurement of all stormwater programs' effectiveness in creek protection and compliance with wasteload allocations established by TMDLs." The information will be used in the development of a future Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) for the Bay area. The Board staff views the proposed new data on changes in impervious surface as a major tool for prioritizing stormwater control efforts and for measuring progress. Contact fkrieger@msn.com for a copy.

Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) – Board holds second

workshop – On October 24, the State Water Resources Control Board held a second workshop to hear testimony concerning the Board's program to enforce a prohibition on the discharge of wastes, including urban runoff, to ASBS (See *NewsFlash* 05-38). ASBS are designated locations along the California coast that require additional protection from environmental disturbances. Both dischargers and representatives of environmental groups objected to the Board's approach of using *exceptions* to the California Ocean Plan as the means of regulating these discharges. The Board's goal is to prohibit dry weather discharges but to allow wet weather discharges to continue if they are in compliance with conditions attached to the exceptions.

Board staff did not say what requirements - performance standards - would be imposed by the conditions. Board staff did say, however, that they did not plan to convert the numeric water quality standards in Table B of the Ocean Plan into numeric effluent limits applicable to the discharges. Compliance with Table B will be a goal. The transcript from the first workshop, as well as other ASBS information is posted at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/asbs.html>

'California Runoff Rundown' – State Board funded newsletter - The Fall 2005 edition of the *California Runoff Rundown* is now posted. The focus is on nonpoint source runoff control but much of the information is relevant for permitted stormwater sources. <http://www.water-ed.org/2005FallRunoffRundown.pdf>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>